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Arlington Fire Started in Hot Tub

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Arlington Fire Chief Allan P. McEwen announced today that the cause of the April 11 fire at 3 Yale Road in Arlington was an electrical failure or malfunction in an outdoor hot tub control panel. The hot tub was located on the exterior deck.

Chief McEwen added, "No one was home at the time of the fire, but neighbors and a passer-by kicked in the side door to see if someone was because of the car in the driveway. They managed to save the dog who returned home his family later that day."

Investigators believe the fire started in the control panel, ignited nearby combustibles, and extended to the hot tub itself. The fire dropped under the deck igniting dry leaves, which spread to quickly engulf the entire deck. There a gas grill next to the deck fed by a natural gas pipe. When the flexible hosing burned away, the natural gas fed the fire. Chief McEwen said, "We believe that the explosion reported by neighbors was a can of water seal exploding."

The Arlington Fire Department, Arlington Police Department and State Police investigators in the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire.